

Art
C1

has a helper peptide added thereto; and then harvesting said peptide of interest that has a helper peptide added thereto or said fusion protein from said culture;

(2) in the case wherein a fusion protein is obtained in step (1), cleaving off from said fusion protein the peptide of interest that has a helper peptide added thereto and the protective peptide, and purifying the peptide of interest that has a helper peptide added thereto as desired;

(3) cleaving off from the peptide of interest that has a helper peptide added thereto obtained in step (1) or step (2), the helper peptide and the peptide of interest, and purifying the peptide of interest as desired; and

(4) purifying the peptide of interest obtained in step (3).

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4. (Twice Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein said peptide of interest has no more than 200 amino acid residues.

C3

23. (Twice Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein endotoxin is present in the final purified product, and wherein the content of endotoxin in the final purified product is not greater than 0.03 units/mg.

Please add new claim 28 as follows:

C4

--28. The process according to claim 1, wherein the peptide of interest obtained in step (2) is subjected to a modification reaction to obtain a modified peptide.--